

## Update #4 Regarding BPPVE Approved Schools

The Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Reform Act of 1989 (Act), including the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (BPPVE), became inoperative on July 1, 2007 and the Act itself was repealed on January 1, 2008. The Department of Consumer Affairs has worked to encourage schools to voluntarily agree to comply with the law as it existed on June 30, 2007. More information about this can be found at [www.bppve.ca.gov](http://www.bppve.ca.gov).

The Governor has signed legislation to address the sunset of the BPPVE, most recently SB 45 (Perata, 2007) which extended the Board's ability to accept degrees from schools that had a valid approval to operate as of June 30, 2007 until January 1, 2009. The legislature has passed Board-sponsored AB 1897, currently awaiting action by the Governor, which, if signed into law, would permit the Board to:

- Accept qualifying degrees from schools accredited by any of the following regional accrediting bodies, which are equivalent to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC):
  - Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools
  - Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools
  - New England Association of Schools and Colleges
  - North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools
  - Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- Accept qualifying degrees from schools approved by the BPPVE as of June 30, 2007, if the degree is conferred on or before July 1, 2010. However, please be advised that this bill has not been signed into law by the Governor or enacted.

*If AB 1897 passes, what does this mean for a person attending a school formerly approved by the BPPVE whose degree was or will be conferred on or after July 1, 2007?*

If your school's BPPVE approval was still in effect on June 30, 2007; your degree was or will be conferred on or before July 1, 2010; and if your degree meets all other qualifications, it will be accepted for Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) Intern registration and MFT licensure.

If your school was approved by the BPPVE but is also accredited by one of the regional accrediting bodies mentioned above, your degree will be accepted for MFT Intern registration and MFT licensure.

*What does this mean for prospective students considering entering a MFT program?*

The provisions in AB 1897 relating to BPPVE approvals expire on July 1, 2010. If you are considering entering a degree program at a non-accredited school, we strongly suggest that you monitor the progress of reform legislation. **The Board cannot advise you on whether to enroll in any program (including those affected by the elimination of the BPPVE).**

**However, the board is committed to providing you with facts that can help you make an informed decision.**

*What other legislation is pending?*

Senate Bill 823 (Perata) would create a Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education in the Department of Consumer Affairs. This bill establishes the regulatory structure, provides authority to regulate and enforce provisions, and establishes reporting requirements and accountability. This bill is currently awaiting action in the legislature. **For further details regarding this and other related legislation, please contact your school or check for updates on the Department of Consumer Affairs' web site at [www.bppve.ca.gov](http://www.bppve.ca.gov).**

*What is the Board of Behavioral Sciences doing to address this issue?*

The Board sponsored Assembly Bill 1897 as mentioned above. In addition, the Board has proposed a regulation that would permit applicants for MFT licensure and MFT Intern registration who obtain a degree from a BPPVE approved school between January 1, 2009 and June 30, 2012 to continue to qualify, as long as the school held an approval to operate as of June 30, 2007. The public comment period for this regulation ends on September 13, 2008, and the Board anticipates voting on the proposed regulation in October 2008. However, please be advised that this regulation is subject to the review and approval of the Office of Administrative Law. **For more information on this regulation see [www.bbs.ca.gov/bd\\_activity/reg\\_pending.shtml](http://www.bbs.ca.gov/bd_activity/reg_pending.shtml).**

*What Can I Do?*

If you wish to provide comment on the pending legislation, please contact the following:

Senator Don Perata (**SB 823**)  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-651-4009

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (**AB 1897**)  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-445-2841

If you wish to provide **written** comment to the Board regarding the proposed regulation, you may send it to the board at the address below:

Board of Behavioral Sciences  
Attn: Tracy Rhine  
1625 N. Market Boulevard, Suite S-200  
Sacramento, CA 95834

If you wish to provide **verbal** comment regarding the proposed regulation, you may do so during the regulation hearing scheduled to begin at **9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 8, 2008** at:

DCA Headquarters  
1625 N. Market Boulevard, Room N-220  
Sacramento, CA 95834